

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140378

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, BU

SUBJECT: ZHIVKOVA VISIT -- CONCLUSION

REF: STATE 138102

1. REMAINDER OF WASHINGTON TOUR WAS AS IMPRESSIVE AS FIRST
LEG OF VISIT. HIGHLIGHT WAS ZHIVKOVA'S ATTENDANCE (ACCOMP-
ANIED BY INTERPRETER ONLY) AT WHITE HOUSE RECEPTION FOR
AMERICAN ARTISTS AFTERNOON OF JUNE 14. MME. ZHIVKOVA WAS
ON TIME (A FIRST DURING THE VISIT), AND WAS ESCORTED FROM
THE WEST WING INTO THE RECEPTION ROOM BY VICE PRESIDENT AND
MRS. MONDALE. SHE MET WITH SEVERAL ARTISTS AND CULTURAL
LEADERS AND WAS INTRODUCED TO THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. CARTER
BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY (CU) DUFFEY. ZHIVKOVA TOLD THE
PRESIDENT HER TRIP WAS VERY WELL ORGANIZED AND SHE WAS
ENJOYING IT VERY MUCH. SHE THANKED HIM FOR THE OPPORTUNITY
OF BRINGING THE THRACIAN EXHIBIT TO THE US AND SIGNING THE
US-BULGARIAN CULTURAL AGREEMENT. THE PRESIDENT RESPONDED
BY SAYING HE WAS HAPPY SHE WAS ABLE TO VISIT THIS COUNTRY
AND ASKED ZHIVKOVA TO GIVE HIS BEST WISHES TO "HER FATHER."
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CLEARLY PLEASED, SHE SAID SHE HOPED THE PRESIDENT WOULD
VISIT BULGARIA "SOON." NEXT DAY'S POST AND STAR STYLE
SECTION REPORTED ON RECEPTION NOTING ABOUT 70 ATTENDED,
INCLUDING WARHOL, WYETH, NANCY HANKS, SEVERAL ART CRITICS

AND COLLECTORS, AND OTHERS, INCLUDING JOHNNY CASH. MME.
ZHIVKOVA'S PRESENCE WAS NOT REPORTED.

2. PRIOR TO WHITE HOUSE RECEPTION ZHIVKOVA AND PARTY TOURED AND WERE VISIBLY IMPRESSED BY AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM, HIRSHHORN, AND NATIONAL GALLERY. INFORMAL AND ENJOYABLE LUNCHEON HOSTED BY NATIONAL GALLERY CURATOR WAS IN SPECIAL AREA OF GALLERY RESTAURANT, WHERE ZHIVKOVA ENJOYED EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE CHOCOLATE SUNDAY. MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA AT WOLF TRAP CALLED "FAT TUESDAY" ABOUT NEW ORLEANS AT MARDI GRAS TIME WAS ENJOYED BY ALL AND WAS NOT MARRED BY EXPECTED RAIN. ZHIVKOVA, HOWEVER, PREFERRED IBSEN.

3. JUNE 15 SCHEDULE WAS LESS HECTIC, WITH CALL ON ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AT 10:15 (BEING REPORTED SEPTEL), NOON TOUR OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AND LUNCHEON WITH DANIEL BOORSTIN, AND AFTERNOON OF SHOPPING. BOORSTIN AGREED TO PUT ON EXHIBIT OF BULGARIAN MANUSCRIPTS AT SOME DATE IN NEAR FUTURE WHICH PLEASED BULGARIANS VERY MUCH. EVENING RECEPTION HOSTED BY POPOV AT SHOREHAM AMERICANA HOTEL (TO WHICH ZHIVKOVA ARRIVED ONE-HALF HOUR LATE) WAS ATTENDED BY AMBASSADOR REINHARDT, ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST, NANCY HANKS AND ABOUT 200 OTHERS (INCLUDING SEVERAL BULGARIAN ORTHODOX PRIESTS, A FIRST AT AN EASTERN EUROPEAN RECEPTION HERE AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE). NOTHING WAS SCHEDULED MORNING OF JUNE 16 BEYOND LAST-MINUTE SHOPPING FOR EDUCATIONAL TOYS. ZHIVKOVA, DAMYANOV, MINEKOV AND PETROV WERE SEEN OFF AT DULLES BY EUR/EE DIRECTOR ANDREWS AT 12:45 P.M. FOR CONCORDE TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT. OTHERS WERE TAKING JUMBO JET LATER IN THE DAY.

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4. ENTIRE VISIT WENT QUITE SMOOTHLY, AND ZHIVKOVA WAS CLEARLY IMPRESSED BY THE PROGRAM, THE LEVEL OF RECEPTION THE HOSPITALITY AND THE "ATTENTION" PAID HER. GENERALLY SPEAKING, SHE DID NOT HAVE MUCH OF SUBSTANCE TO DISCUSS (MEMCONS WITH REINHARDT AND SOME OTHERS BEING POUCHED) AND DID NOT HERSELF RAISE MATTERS OUTSIDE HER AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY. WE LEARNED FROM INTERPRETER, HOWEVER, THAT ZHIVKOVA REGARDED MEETING WITH ACTING SECRETARY AS EXTREMELY VALUABLE AND SUBSTANTIVE. IN ANY EVENT, WE BELIEVE THE ZHIVKOVA VISIT HAS GIVEN IMPETUS TO THE RELATIONSHIP -- THE DEGREE TO WHICH IT WILL REALLY HELP DEPENDS ON ZHIVKOVA'S REPORT ON HER RETURN TO BULGARIA AND ON THE BULGARIAN ABILITY AND WILL TO TAKE SPECIFIC MEASURES TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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